



THE RESEARCHER

The University of Lusaka Research Newsletter

Volume 1 issue

1 June 2025

Message from the Vice Chancellor



The launch of this quarterly newsletter is designed to facilitate the dissemination of research across the University, ensuring that faculty, staff and key stakeholders remain informed and engaged in groundbreaking academic contributions.

A fundamental pillar of university research is the translation of research outputs into innovation, creating commercial products that drive progress and societal impact.

This issue proudly highlights the establishment of the Centre for Research Innovation, Consultancy and Commercial Development (CRICCD), a strategic initiative aimed at bridging research excellence with industry application, fostering innovation, and enhancing commercial viability.

The University of Lusaka, recognised as a Tier 1 Research University, is committed to fostering a culture of innovation and academic excellence.

With research at the core of its mission, the University places a high premium on advancing knowledge and transforming discoveries into impactful solutions.

“The University of Lusaka believes in training that solves the problems of the community in which we live and adds value to society”

Professor Pinalo Chifwanakeni
Vice Chancellor University
of Lusaka

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Honorable Minister of Science and Technology launches Science and Innovation policy

National STI policy



Minister of Science and technology Hon Felix Mutati MP

Honourable Felix C. Mutati, MP, Minister of Technology and Science, officially launched the Science and Technology Policy (STI) on Thursday, 5th June 2025, at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre (MICC).

The University of Lusaka actively participated in this milestone event, contributing to a panel discussion on the current initiatives undertaken by Higher Education Institutions and Science Organisations within the Ministry. This Policy serves as a key pillar in Zambia's development agenda, aiming to accelerate Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as a critical tool in the country's transition to middle-income status by 2030.

It is accompanied by a comprehensive implementation plan, providing a strategic roadmap for transforming scientific research and technological advancements into commercial products that drive national development. In his keynote address, the Honorable Minister challenged Technology and Science Institutions to collaborate with the Ministry in advancing Science as a pivotal tool for national development.

His call to action emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships, innovation, and research-driven solutions in propelling Zambia toward sustainable growth and technological advancement.

EU project team visits Latvia

The University of Lusaka has 3 European Union Grants which have been running for a period of 3 years since 2023. One of these projects is the DigiTree project which is a capacity building project designed to promote North South Collaboration and managed by Prof Yashmin Muchindu as the PI.

A team from the University of Lusaka including the (LEAR) the legally Authorized Representative for the University Mr Mwamba Chanda (Senior deputy Registrar Academic) had a staff exchange visit to Latvia under the Digi tree project in early May 2023.

This was a foundational visit to Riga University (RUT) in Latvia and laid the foundation for future collaboration.

1st SARUA Conference

The Conference was officially opened on 28th June 2025 by Dr. Andrew Phiri, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education. His opening remarks underscored the significance of higher education and research in driving innovation and national development.

1st SARUA Conference

The conference brought together over 100 delegates from SADC countries under the theme "Innovating Higher Education for Sustainable Development across the SADC: Innovations for Impact." The event was co-hosted by UNILUS, UNZA, and UNICAF as part of the activities under an EU-funded project through SARUA, which focuses on research into participatory learning methods within the SADC region.

This three-day conference began with a plenary session held at the P.C. Business School Conference Hall, followed by three breakaway groups for more focused discussions.

The University, along with over 10 official delegates, actively participated, co-chairing several scientific sessions and contributing to the exchange of ideas. The event was also attended by Professor Stephen Simukanga, the Interim Executive Director of SARUA, further emphasizing the significance of the conference.



SARUA Research conference 27-30th May 2025 Co hosted at Unilus



The Vice Chancellor Professor Pinalo Chifwanakeni Giving the key note address on the 27th May 2025

Telling the story of Research



Professor Jason Mwanza Appointed as Research Coordinator

In June 2025, the University of Lusaka appointed Professor Jason Mwanza as Research Coordinator, further strengthening the University's research portfolio and expanding its reach into the Social Sciences.

Professor Mwanza brings a wealth of experience in research, having served for several years as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Zambia.

His extensive contributions to academia include a Hirsch index of 12 and over 47 publications listed on Google Scholar.

Holding a PhD in Sociology, Professor Mwanza's expertise will undoubtedly enhance the University's research initiatives, fostering innovation and academic excellence across disciplines.



The launch of the UNILUS SOMHS Research club on 15th May 2025

In May 2025, the University of Lusaka School of Medicine and Health Sciences launched its first-ever Research Club, driven by students' desire to engage in scientific inquiry and innovation from an early stage in their academic journey.

This initiative was inspired by the POHER annual international conference, held in November 2024 at the University of Lusaka Silver Rest Campus. The event attracted over 400 students from around the world, who presented research papers across various disciplines.

The enthusiasm and knowledge exchanged at this gathering motivated students to establish a Research Club, fostering a culture of inquiry and scholarly collaboration. To mark the club's official launch, Professor Kasonde Bowa, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, was invited as the guest speaker.

He shared his remarkable journey in research, which began in his sixth year of medical training when his professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology mentored him in refining McDonald's rule, replacing the traditional finger method with a measuring tape for enhanced accuracy. Professor Bowa's dedication to research has earned him notable recognition, including the Researcher of the Year Award in 2023, presented by the Minister of Science and Technology.

His research impact is reflected in his Hirsch Index of 21 and over 110 journal publications, demonstrating his significant contributions to medical and scientific advancements.

This Research Club is set to nurture young scholars, encourage groundbreaking research, and strengthen the University's reputation as a leader in medical and scientific inquiry.

AI conference on Research Regulation

In June 2025, the University of Lusaka participated in a conference on research regulation hosted in Cape Town by Ethiexpert, the manager of the Rhinno Ethics Platform.

This platform is dedicated to streamlining the ethical review process for research proposals conducted by Institutional Ethical Review Boards (IRBs).

The University of Lusaka was among the first higher education institutions (HEIs) in Zambia to adopt the Rhinno Ethics Platform, beginning in April 2024. At the conference, the University was represented by Mrs. Musonda Mubanga Phiri, further demonstrating its commitment to advancing ethical research practices.

A key outcome of this conference was the consensus on leveraging AI to accelerate ethical reviews conducted on this digital platform. As part of its ongoing research activities, the UNILUS Research Ethics Committee (REC) reviews over 400 proposals each semester, highlighting the importance of efficient, AI-driven ethical review processes.

The Smart Ville Project visit Dortmund



The Smartville Project team between 12-17th of May, 2025, convened in Dortmund, Germany, for the third consortium meeting. The gathering provided an opportunity to review project progress from inception to date. Project managers presented updates on the development of living labs across all partner sites, highlighting achievements and ongoing activities.

The meeting featured insightful presentations from Melanie Roski of the Equal Opportunities Office (City of Dortmund) and a representative from the Equal Opportunities Office at TU Dortmund University, who addressed key issues related to gender and inclusion in the project.

A major highlight of the meeting was the collaborative finalisation of a scholarly publication—one of the key deliverables under Work Package 4. The publication was successfully submitted on 17 June 2025 to the African Economic Review for consideration.

Additionally, academic team members showcased training modules developed for community members, focusing on agriculture and business skills. These modules are set to be implemented as part of the project's community empowerment efforts.



Editors Comments

This is the first issue of the University of Lusaka Research Newsletter designed to spotlight key developments in research, innovation, and consultancy across the University each quarter.

Our goal is to showcase groundbreaking research, celebrate scholarly achievements and foster a dynamic exchange of ideas that drive progress within the academic community.

We highly value your feedback and contributions which will be instrumental in shaping future editions.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about the University of Lusaka Research activities

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The Creation of CRICCD

The University of Lusaka established the Centre for Research Innovation, Consultancy, and Commercial Development (CRICCD) as part of its commitment to advancing research, innovation, and real-world impact.

This initiative aligns with the National Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy, which emphasizes the importance of moving research beyond the laboratory and into the community—addressing societal challenges and driving national development. CRICCD will be housed within the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, serving as a hub for mobilizing the expertise, skills, and knowledge of faculty, students, and researchers across all schools within the University.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration, the Centre aims to foster groundbreaking research, generate innovations, and develop patentable products that contribute to Zambia's socio-economic progress, particularly in the life and social sciences.

This initiative reinforces the University of Lusaka's role as a key driver of innovation and development, ensuring that research leads to tangible solutions that benefit both industry and society.

Entrepreneurship hub hosts workshop on Innovation thinking Skills

On 12th June 2025, the Entrepreneurship Hub at the School of Business, Economics, and Management actively participated in a Thinking and Innovation Workshop, hosted by Bongo Hive. This workshop focused on cultivating creative problem-solving and innovative thinking, equipping participants with strategies to enhance entrepreneurial decision-making and business development.

The event provided a dynamic platform for engaging discussions, interactive sessions, and practical insights into the evolving landscape of innovation-driven entrepreneurship.

Publication Highlight

The publication highlight for the quarter is a publication in the Zambia Medical Journal of Zambia vol 52 on Surgical sepsis in the Intensive Care Unit at the Kabwe General hospital. The research work was done by Remmy Phiri and colleagues. Surgical Sepsis is an important and common problem in Medical practice often resulting in a fatal outcome.

The paper reviews the role of nursing care in the management of this surgical emergency. This was a qualitative study which reviewed the role the nursing team plays in the management of surgical sepsis. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/392402853>

Medical Journal of Zambia, Vol. 52 (3): 404 - 415 (2025)



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Implementation of the Sepsis Six Care Bundle in ICU: Nurses' Perspectives from Kabwe Central Hospital

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UNZA School of Nursing Sciences¹, Kabwe Central Hospital²

ABSTRACT

Background: Sepsis remains a critical global health challenge, affecting 49 million people and causing 11 million deaths annually. It results from a dysregulated host response to infection, leading to

Approach to Sepsis Care, Collaborative Efforts, Strategies for Improving Sepsis Outcomes, and Barriers to Effective Management. Many nurses had limited familiarity with the Sepsis Six Care Bundle, leading to inconsistent implementation. Resource constraints, including inadequate supplies, staffing

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